

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus will moderate an information session on the efforts to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle that has been set for Tuesday, October 26, at 7 p.m. at the Rahway City Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, at the corner of West Milton Avenue and Main Street. Residents from Rahway and neighboring Linden are invited to the meeting to discuss the work done so far to delineate the infestation area and the work to come in removing infested and potential host trees. The meeting is being advertised on Rahway's web site and on Cable Channel 34.

The first tree infested with Asian longhorned beetle in the City of Rahway was discovered on Tuesday, October 5. Found in an area along the city's border with Carteret Borough, the tree became the 406th determined to be infested with the beetle in the quarantine zone that includes Woodbridge, Carteret, Rahway and Linden.

Tree removal in the infestation's core area of Carteret and Woodbridge is tentatively scheduled for late-November, giving plenty of time for cold nights to kill off any remaining adult beetles. This is necessary to keep adult beetles in trees that are being cut down from fleeing to neighboring trees that might not yet be infested. Additional public outreach efforts are being planned for Carteret and Woodbridge residents, as the ALB team moves closer to the start of tree removal.

Field surveys continued this week in the four municipalities to determine the extent of the infestation. The main core of the infestation, with trees showing exit holes and egg sites, remains about 1 square mile in size. Twenty-four USFS climbers conducting aerial inspections and about 15 program staff conducting ground surveys on smaller trees continue to work delimiting surveys. More than 20,000 trees have been inspected to date with 406 infested trees detected. Six new compliance agreements were issued this week for a total of 46 agreements in place. Iron Leaf Recycling in Edison NJ was certified as a disposal site of ALB regulated materials.

On October 18, the ALB fall media campaign "Don't Move Firewood" kicked off with a free full-page ad in the New York Resident. The bulk of the ads are scheduled to run during the month of November. The program targeted 47 publications, serving the quarantine areas in New Jersey, New York and Illinois, with an advertising circulation that could potentially reach more than 10 million people.